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Spark dies early in romance

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare running at the Stratford Festival until Nov. 15. Antoni Cimolino as Romeo, Megan Porter Follows as Juliet, Colm Feore as Mercutio, Lorne Kennedy as Tybalt and Barbara Bryne as Juliet's nurse. For tickets call 1-800-567-1600.

Yeah, yeah, you know the story. Romeo Montague meets Juliet Capulet, their families hate each other, and everyone who has more than two lines ends up dead. Not a bad plot, perhaps, except the nurse who everyone in the audience wants dangling from the end of a Shakespearean blade, goes on her chirpy way.

The 1992 Stratford production of *Romeo and Juliet* can't decide which type of play it wants to be and thus ends up a muddle. Considering the romantic aspects are always played up, it is nice when a production can shift some emphasis onto the violence. For a violent play it is.

It is also good to see some stress on the oft neglected point that the title characters are barely teenagers, and should exhibit at least some of the traits of the young.

Stratford's production bravely includes these elements, but not to the extent necessary to alter the style and feel of the whole play. Romance is not pushed to the side, rather it competes with the violence and the youth of the protagonists, to the point where no element predominates. The production is directionless.

Perhaps part of the problem is that Colm Feore, who plays Romeo's friend Mercutio, who is killed early in the play, is simply the best actor on the stage. When he leaves it, the play loses much of its zip. Otherwise put, when Mercutio is the best thing going in your production of *Romeo and Juliet*, you're in trouble.

Megan Follows, of *Anne of Green Gables* and *Anne of*

BACK STAGE

with BRAD REAUME



Avonlea fame, takes on Juliet and produces a technically solid performance. There is however, no gleam in her eye, no spark to her Juliet.

Antoni Cimolino's Romeo follows Follows. When she is listless, so is he, when she plays the part without spark, so does he. Like Follows, he is a technical actor, hitting the marks, getting his lines, being in the right place, climbing, kissing, handling the tough stuff. But is he inspiring? No.

If you've never seen *Romeo and Juliet* go. It strikes a balance between the three most important aspects of the play, love, violence and youth. Lorne Kennedy is great as Tybalt. Unfortunately, to be memorable, a production of *Romeo and Juliet* needs to take sides. It needs more than a great Tybalt, or a great Mercutio. It needs focus.

Mock their youth and inexperience. Or, extend and play-up the hatred between families and numerous death scenes. These things are rarely done with *Romeo and Juliet*. If you must, work the play to its romantic hilt. It won't be too memorable but at least the blue hairs will like it. Don't however, try to do all these things, at least not without talents equal to Mr. Feore in every major part in the play.



Dear Valued Customers,

As of July 29, 1992, the Georgetown operation of Metrophone will be moved to our corporate headquarters in Burlington.

Our sales representatives will continue to service this area by making appointments. For inquiring about our service and making appointments please call from Milton 333-6600.

The address of our head office is:

3425 Harvester Rd., Suite 102A
Burlington, Ontario L7N 3N1

Yours very truly,

Kamran Golbabai

Kamran Golbabai,
Manager

LEISURE LINK



Summer is a fun time

While the Milton Leisure Centre provides first-class indoor swimming, there's no comparison to being in the great outdoors.

Those with their eyes on some fun in the sun can take advantage of the Rotary Park Community Pool. The pool has a water slide, water mat, and plenty of water toys.

The large, heated pool is open for public swimming daily from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission costs \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for children and youths, or \$5 per family.

Also featured in the park is a supervised wading pool for the small fry, at no charge.

Late night swimmers may be interested in the leisure centre's Mid-night Madness event Aug. 14. The special swim runs from 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$2.25.

How about a little adventure?

Action-packed program Youth Adventure Camp has been specially designed for older youth aged 11 to 16 years. It includes fun-filled activities to keep participants occupied all day.

W.I. Dick Middle School is the location of the supervised program. The next two sessions — which are the last of the season — run from August 4 to 7 and August 10 to 14.

The August 4 session, which includes a bus trip to a local tourist attraction, costs \$34 while the August 10 session with no trip costs \$27.

Youth with special needs are invited to join the program, but participants must provide their own care giver if one-to-one supervision is required.

The world is a playground

A summer full of fun and friendships for boys and girls aged 5 to 10 years is available through the Town's playground programs.

Crafts, games, trips, special events, and much more are among the highlights of the supervised program held Monday to Friday for half (8:30 a.m. to 12 noon or 1 to 4 p.m.) or full (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) days.

The program is available at four schools — Robert Baldwin, J.M. Denyes, Sherratt, and Brookville.

The next sessions will be held August 4 to 7 (including a trip to Ontario Place) and August 10 to 14. The cost for the August 4 session is \$27 for the full-day program and \$8 for the half-day program. The August 10 session costs \$19 for the full-day and \$12 for the half-day.

Day passes are available for children attending less than a full week. The cost is \$4 per full day and \$3 per half day.

New this summer in the playground program is extended supervision which provides care for children during their parents' commuting and working hours.

Supervision takes place at Hugh Foster Hall, and the children are walked to and from J.M. Denyes — the only program location where the service is offered.

On trip days, extended supervision will take place at Rotary Park Community Centre. The hours are 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. (\$2) and 4 to 5:30 p.m. (\$3).

An integrated program for people with special needs runs at the Robert Baldwin playground site. Registration is limited to four to six people per week, and participants must provide their own care giver if one-to-one supervision is required.